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ASCS BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture

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RESULTS OF MARKETING QUOTA REFERENDUMS

Since the beginning of production adjustment programs in the 1930's the referendum method has been used to obtain -- direct from individual producers -- an expression of their desire for or against the initiation or continuation or an adjustment measure.

The first actual referendum was held in 1934, on the question of a corn-hog adjustment program in 1935. More than half a million signers of the 1934 contract voted in this referendum, and more than two-thirds of the number voting favored the adoption of the new program. On this mandate, the detailed program was formulated and the contracts offered to producers.

Referendums similar to the corn-hog vote also were used early in production adjustment history among cotton and tobacco growers to determine whether the Bankhead and Kerr-Smith Acts should be continued in effect in the 1935 season.

When the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 was enacted, referendums were directed in connection with marketing quotas for the six so-called "basic" crops -- wheat, cotton, rice, peanuts, corn and tobacco. The quotas are for use under conditions of heavy supply; they provide a method of allocating the available market among the farms growing the crop; they are made effective through farm acreage allotments, and monetary penalties, when applicable, on production or marketings from excess acreage if the acreage exceeds the farm allotment.

With a few exceptions, the marketing quota programs provided in 1938 -- and the referendums which approve their use -- are still current. However, quotas were never in effect for corn, and the quota authority for this crop was repealed in 1954 (corn allotments were ended with the 1958 crop). Special legislation exempts wheat and upland cotton from marketing quotas through the 1977 crop.

No marketing quota program can be put into effect without the approval of at least two-thirds of the producers voting in a national referendum. When quotas are approved by growers voting in a referendum, the quotas apply to all producers of the crop. A special marketing quota program for flue-cured tobacco provides poundage quotas as well as acreage allotments when approved by more than two-thirds of the farmers voting in a referendum. A poundage program is in effect for burley tobacco.

The following tables list results of referendums held on marketing quotas for the basic crops as provided by the Act of 1938 and its later amendments.

COTTON, UPLAND

Crop	Date of Referendum	Votes			Percent Yes
		Total	Yes	No	
1938	Mar. 1938	1,527,028	1,406,088	120,940	92.1
1939	Dec. 1938	1,169,663	983,903	185,760	84.1
1940	Dec. 1939	962,273	877,297	84,976	91.2
1941	Dec. 1940	918,857	848,428	70,429	92.3
1942	Dec. 1941	840,881	789,662	52,219	93.9
1943 <u>1/</u>	Dec. 1942	762,856	657,452	105,404	86.2
1950	Dec. 1949	644,135	575,963	68,172	89.4
1954	Dec. 1953	487,453	458,382	29,071	94.0
1955	Dec. 1954	346,542	318,949	27,593	92.0
1956	Dec. 1955	292,488	271,887	20,601	93.0
1957	Dec. 1956	231,678	214,003	17,675	92.4
1958	Dec. 1957	229,315	213,046	16,269	92.9
1959	Dec. 1958	274,943	253,590	21,353	92.2
1960	Dec. 1959	188,349	179,259	9,090	95.2
1961	Dec. 1960	193,456	186,935	6,521	96.6
1962	Dec. 1961	280,499	271,824	8,675	96.9
1963	Dec. 1962	217,020	203,310	13,710	93.7
1964	Dec. 1963	234,682	220,701	13,981	94.0
1965	Dec. 1964	305,452	293,865	11,587	96.2
1966	Nov. 1965	211,810	200,810	11,000	94.8
1967	Dec. 1966	301,442	276,205	25,237	91.6
1968	Dec. 1967	276,336	263,405	12,931	95.3
1969	Dec. 1968	288,165	276,122	12,043	95.8
1970	Dec. 1969	266,895	256,521	10,374	96.1
1971-73 <u>2/</u>					
1974-77 <u>3/</u>					

1/ Suspended

2/ Agricultural Act of 1970

3/ Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973

COTTON, EXTRA LONG STAPLE

Crop	:	Date of Referendum	:	Votes			:	Percent Yes
				Total	:	Yes	:	No
1954		Dec. 1953		1,643		1,467		176
1955		Dec. 1954		1,193		1,107		86
1956		Dec. 1955		1,115		1,005		110
1957		Dec. 1956		888		839		49
1958		Dec. 1957		1,246		1,097		149
1959		Dec. 1958		1,180		1,044		136
1960		Dec. 1959		861		732		129
1961		Dec. 1960		1,016		914		102
1962		Dec. 1961		1,175		1,042		133
1963		Dec. 1962		1,129		925		204
1964		Dec. 1963		1,237		919		318
1965		Dec. 1964		953		764		189
1966		Nov. 1965		1,173		930		243
1967		Dec. 1966		2,813		2,205		608
1968		Dec. 1967		2,186		1,912		274
1969		Dec. 1968		2,416		2,183		233
1970		Dec. 1969		2,165		2,036		129
1971		Dec. 1970		2,013		1,900		113
1972		Dec. 1971		1,956		1,853		103
1973		Dec. 1972		2,039		1,899		140
1974		Dec. 1973		1,596		1,402		194
1975		Dec. 1974		1,349		1,244		105

RICE

Crop	:	Date of Referendum	:	Votes			:	Percent Yes
				Total	:	Yes	:	No
1939		Dec. 1938		7,890		3,806		4,084
1955		Jan. 1955		17,647		15,911		1,736
1956		Jan. 1956		10,645		9,008		1,637
1957		Dec. 1956		6,984		6,384		600
1958		Dec. 1957		6,827		6,207		620
1959		Dec. 1958		7,570		6,577		993
1960		Dec. 1959		6,168		5,584		584
1961		Dec. 1960		6,088		5,553		535
1962		Jan. 1962		8,973		8,455		518
1963		Jan. 1963		9,990		8,774		1,216
1964		Dec. 1963		8,307		7,464		843
1965		Jan. 1965		7,626		6,932		694
1966		Nov. 1965		6,496		5,971		525
1967		Jan. 1967		11,661		10,257		1,404
1968		Jan. 1968		12,915		12,345		570
1969		Jan. 1969		11,545		10,778		767
1970		Jan. 1970		13,964		12,629		1,335
1971		Jan. 1971		11,874		11,138		736
1972		Jan. 1972		11,659		11,019		640
1973		Jan. 1973		11,422		10,768		654
1974		<u>1/</u>						
1975		<u>1/</u>						

1/ Marketing quotas not in effect

WHEAT

Crop	:	Date of Referendum	:	Votes			:	Percent Yes
				Total	:	Yes	:	No
1941 <u>1</u> /		May 1941		559,630		453,569		106,061
1942 <u>1</u> /		May 1942		392,111		323,030		69,081
1943 <u>1</u> /						NO VOTE		
1954		Aug. 1953		447,757		390,221		57,536
1955		July 1954		284,646		208,623		76,023
1956		June 1955		347,652		268,817		78,835
1957		July 1956		280,466		245,081		35,385
1958		June 1957		235,039		202,668		32,371
1959		June 1958		230,300		193,583		36,717
1960		July 1959		210,187		169,760		40,427
1961		July 1960		178,718		156,134		22,584
1962		Aug. 1961		278,515		221,250		57,265
1963		Aug. 1962		247,508		169,348		78,160
1964		May 1963		1,222,856		584,284		638,572

1/ Suspended

PEANUTS

Crop	:	Date of Referendum	:	Votes			:	Percent Yes
				Total	Yes	No		
1941) 1942) <u>1/</u> 1943)		Apr. 1941		73,850	64,462	9,388		87.3
<u>1/</u> 1948) 1949) 1950)		Dec. 1947		105,089	92,136	12,953		87.7
1951) 1952) 1953)		Dec. 1950		68,910	48,790	20,120		70.8
1954) 1955) 1956)		Dec. 1953		66,433	62,637	3,796		94.3
1957) 1958) 1959)		Dec. 1956		39,138	36,596	2,542		93.5
1960) 1961) 1962)		Dec. 1959		33,598	31,875	1,723		94.9
1963) 1964) 1965)		Dec. 1962		42,838	41,508	1,330		96.9
1966) 1967) 1968)		Nov. 1965		36,413	35,516	897		97.5
1969) 1970) 1971)		Dec. 1968		50,358	48,808	1,550		96.0
1972) 1973) 1974)		Dec. 1971		43,641	42,503	1,138		97.4
1975) 1976) 1977)		Dec. 1974		43,611	42,317	1,294		97.0

1/ Suspended

TOBACCO

Type	Crop	Date of referendum	Total votes cast	Percent of votes cast	For three years	For one year	Against quotas
Flue-cured	1938	Mar. 12, 1938	255,095	--	86.2		13.8
	1939	Dec. 10, 1938	233,393	--	56.8		43.2
	1940	Oct. 5, 1939	250,671	--	90.0		10.0
	1941, 1942, 1943	July 20, 1940	203,059	86.1	1.8		12.1
	1944, 1945, 1946	July 24, 1943	143,510	87.6	3.1		9.3
	1947, 1948, 1949	July 12, 1946	256,735	97.1	1.2		1.7
	1950, 1951, 1952	July 23, 1949	230,719	97.7	0.9		1.4
	1953, 1954, 1955	July 19, 1952	260,163	97.8	1.0		1.2
	1956, 1957, 1958	July 23, 1955	200,444	95.5	1.8		2.7
	1959, 1960, 1961	Dec. 15, 1958	176,607	95.4			4.6
	1962, 1963, 1964	Dec. 12, 1961	194,121	98.1			1.9
	1965, 1966, 1967	Dec. 15, 1964	356,951	96.5			3.5
	1965, 1966, 1967 <u>1/</u>	May 4, 1965	229,880	73.6			26.4
	1968, 1969, 1970 <u>1/</u>	July 18, 1967	162,314	96.5			3.5
	1971, 1972, 1973	July 16, 1970	129,961	98.4			1.6
	1974, 1975, 1976	July 17, 1973	100,466	98.5			1.5
Burley	1938	Apr. 9, 1938	177,078	--	87.1		12.9
	1939	Dec. 17, 1938	217,339	--	59.4		40.6
	1940	Nov. 21, 1939	118,527	--	83.3		16.7
	1941, 1942, 1943	Nov. 23, 1940	145,089	76.5	3.1		20.4
	1944, 1945, 1946	Oct. 23, 1943	123,559	92.8	2.1		5.1
	1947, 1948, 1949	Oct. 25, 1946	135,326	95.9	1.7		2.4
	1950, 1951, 1952	Nov. 26, 1949	155,483	92.3	3.5		4.2
	1953, 1954, 1955	Nov. 22, 1952	179,493	97.0	1.3		1.7
	1955 Redetermination	Apr. 28, 1955	340,822	<u>2/</u> 96.0			<u>2/</u> 4.0
	1956, 1957, 1958	Dec. 29, 1955	194,415	95.3			4.7
	1959, 1960, 1961	Feb. 24, 1959	190,453	98.7			1.3
	1962, 1963, 1964	Feb. 20, 1962	176,926	99.2			.8
	1965, 1966, 1967	Feb. 25, 1965	361,167	99.0			1.0
	1966, 1967, 1968 <u>1/</u>	Mar. 10, 1966	285,211	57.0			43.0
	1967, 1968, 1969 <u>1/</u>	Feb. 27-Mar. 3, 1967	341,539	58.8			41.2
	1968, 1969, 1970	Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 1968	299,696	97.0			3.0
	1971, 1972, 1973	May 4, 1971	328,608	96.6			3.4
	1974, 1975, 1976	Feb. 25-Mar. 1, 1974	287,829	93.8			1.7

(continued)

TOBACCO (continued)

Type	:	Crop	:	Date of referendum	:	Total votes cast	Percent of votes cast		
							For three: years	For one: year	Against quotas
Fire-cured 1938				Mar. 12, 1938		48,788	--	80.6	19.4
and dark 1939				Dec. 7, 1938		43,736	--	60.4	39.6
air-cured <u>3/</u>									
Fire-cured 1941,1942,1943 <u>4/</u>				Nov. 23, 1940		23,296	86.3	2.1	11.6
1946 <u>5/</u> ,1947,1948				Oct. 20, 1945		13,557	90.8	2.8	6.4
1949,1950,1951				Nov. 27, 1948		21,140	94.7	2.5	2.8
1952,1953,1954				Dec. 7, 1951		13,350	96.5	1.8	1.7
1955,1956,1957				Dec. 14, 1954		11,919	95.6	1.8	2.6
1958,1959,1960				Feb. 18, 1958		8,821	96.0		4.0
1961,1962,1963				Feb. 24, 1961		11,319	98.0		2.0
1964,1965,1966				Feb. 28, 1964		11,978	94.7		5.3
1967,1968,1969				Feb.13-17,1967		13,783	93.5		6.5
1970,1971,1972				Feb. 16-20, 1970		12,767	93.8		6.2
1973,1974,1975				Feb. 19-23, 1973		10,504	93.2		6.8
Dark 1941,1942,1943 <u>4/</u>				Nov. 23, 1940		10,578	84.2	2.2	13.6
air-cured 1946 <u>5/</u> ,1947,1948				Oct. 20, 1945		18,167	96.1	1.5	2.4
1949,1950,1951				Nov. 27, 1948		17,717	96.1	1.5	2.4
1952,1953,1954				Dec. 7, 1951		11,430	97.4	1.5	1.1
1955,1956,1957				Dec. 14, 1954		9,538	95.9	1.2	2.9
1958,1959,1960				Feb. 18, 1958		8,381	96.6		3.4
1961,1962,1963				Feb. 24, 1961		9,082	98.7		1.3
1964,1965,1966				Feb. 28, 1964		9,113	97.8		2.2
1967,1968,1969				Feb.13-17,1967		13,695	93.0		7.0
1970,1971,1972				Feb. 16-20, 1970		12,234	93.2		6.8
1973,1974,1975				Feb. 19-23, 1973		10,901	93.7		6.3

(continued)

TOBACCO (continued)

Type	:	Crop	:	Date of referendum	:	Total votes cast	Percent of votes cast		
							For three years	For one year	Against quotas
Virginia sun-cured		1950,1951,1952		Dec. 15, 1949		2,021	85.1	6.4	8.5
		1953,1954,1955		Nov. 22, 1952		2,095	97.1	2.0	0.9
		1956,1957,1958		Dec. 29, 1955		1,577	98.0		2.0
		1959,1960,1961		Feb. 24, 1959		1,128	97.9		2.1
		1962,1963,1964		Feb. 20, 1962		1,431	98.5		1.5
		1965,1966,1967		Feb. 25, 1965		1,169	97.5		2.5
		1968,1969,1970		Feb.26-Mar.1,1968		786	93.4		6.6
		1971,1972,1973		Feb. 22-26, 1971		665	94.6		5.4
		1974,1975,1976		Feb.25-Mar.1,1974		471	93.8		6.2
Maryland		1951,1952,1953		Dec. 20, 1950		6,273	18.1	19.1	62.8
		1952,1953,1954		Dec. 7, 1951		5,258	15.5	13.1	71.4
		1953,1954,1955		Oct. 29, 1952		6,383	64.5	9.6	25.9
		1954,1955,1956		Oct. 29, 1953		5,171	51.3	12.8	35.9
		1955,1956,1957		Dec. 17, 1954		5,555	43.7	7.4	48.9
		1956,1957,1958		Dec. 29, 1955		7,543	81.0		19.0
		1959,1960,1961		Feb. 24, 1959		5,021	64.2		35.8
		1960,1961,1962		Feb. 2, 1959		5,958	77.8		22.2
		1963,1964,1965		Feb. 14, 1963		4,441	83.8		16.2
		1966,1967,1968		Feb. 25, 1966		4,030	41.5		58.5
		1967,1968,1969		Feb.20-24,1967		6,375	61.0		39.0
		1968,1969,1970		Feb.19-23,1968		5,882	56.0		44.0
		1971,1972,1973		Feb. 22-26,1971		3,976	18.8		81.2
		1974,1975,1976		Feb.25-Mar.1,1974		5,442	25.5		74.5
Cigar filler (41)		1951,1952,1953		Dec. 20, 1950		3,348	11.8	9.8	78.4
		1952,1953,1954		Dec. 7, 1951		2,648	21.4	12.1	66.5
		1953,1954,1955		Oct. 29, 1952		1,670	26.3	12.1	61.6
		1954,1955,1956		Oct. 29, 1953		1,479	17.4	7.0	75.6
		1955, 1956,1957		Dec. 17, 1954		1,893	8.4	3.8	87.7
		1956,1957,1958		Dec. 29, 1955		1,887	11.3		88.7
		1959,1960,1961		Feb. 24, 1959		2,382	7.9		92.1
		1962,1963,1964		Feb. 20, 1962		4,275	13.8		86.2
		1965,1966,1967		Feb. 18, 1965		3,206	11.8		88.2
		1968,1969,1970		Feb.19-23,1968		2,034	19.0		81.0
		1971,1972,1973		Feb.22-26,1971		1,412	22.7		77.3
		1974,1975,1976		Feb.25-Mar.1,1974		890	14.8		85.2

(continued)

TOBACCO (continued)

Type	Crop	Date of referendum	Total votes cast	Percent of votes cast		
				For three years	For one year	Against quotas
Cigar	1951,1952,1953	Dec. 20, 1950	5,564	43.8	23.0	33.2
filler and	1952,1953,1954	Dec. 7, 1951	4,213	42.4	23.3	34.3
binder	1953,1954,1955	Oct. 29, 1952	4,854	61.7	13.2	25.1
(42-55)	1954,1955,1956	Oct. 29, 1953	3,896	77.0	12.6	10.4
(42-44,	1957,1958,1959	Feb. 13, 1957	3,944	94.0		5.9
53-55)	1960,1961,1962	Feb. 11, 1960	3,805	95.4		4.6
	1963,1964,1965	Feb. 26, 1963	3,401	89.6		10.4
	1966,1967,1968	Feb. 10, 1966	3,659	91.3		8.7
	1969,1970,1971	Feb. 24-27, 1969	4,813	84.6		15.4
	1972,1973,1974	Jan. 10-14, 1972	3,629	91.2		8.8
	1975,1976,1977	Feb. 24-28,1975	3,526	86.6		13.4
(51-52)	1957,1958,1959	Feb. 13, 1957	1,862	98.0		2.0
	1960,1961,1962	Feb. 11, 1960	797	89.7		10.3
	1963,1964,1965	Feb. 26, 1963	349	96.0		4.0
	1966,1967,1968	Feb. 10, 1966	354	96.6		3.4
	1969,1970,1971 ^{6/}	Feb. 24-27, 1969	462	92.0		8.0
	1972,1973,1974 ^{6/}	Jan. 10-14, 1972	282	92.2		7.8
	1975,1976,1977	Feb. 24-28, 1975	199	92.0		8.0

1/ Vote on alternative acreage-poundage quotas.

2/ Votes for and against redetermination of 1955 quota in referendum held under 69 Stat. 23.

3/ Referendum for both kinds combined.

4/ Quotas on 1943 crop terminated August 14, 1943.

5/ Quotas not in effect in 1944 and 1945.

6/ Marketing quotas terminated for the 1970, 1971, 1972, and 1973 crops.

